

# B REACTOR MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

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June 26, 2001

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Re: Support for Alternative #3 in the B Reactor EE/CA

**RECEIVED**  
AUG 14 2001

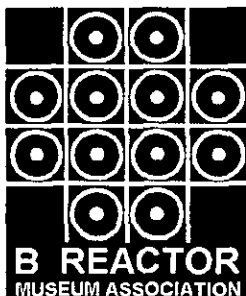
**EDMC**

Today I'm speaking as president of the B Reactor Museum Association, a position I've held for a year and a half, before which I was an active member for five years.

The BRMA was formed over 10 years ago with one primary vision—to see B Reactor preserved (as opposed to being torn down) and someday opened as a museum. The DOE's preferred alternative in this EE/CA, option #3, will by all rights achieve the first half of our mission—to have the DOE commit to preserving the reactor with the goal of making it accessible to the public. Hallelujah and crack open the champagne. I can only say how lucky I feel to be the one at the helm of the BRMA after such a long, meandering path is bringing us to this milestone.

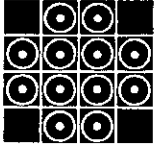
Therefore, I am happy to say that the BRMA firmly supports Alternative #3, and are very pleased that the DOE has chosen this direction, realizing that they, along with Bechtel and the EPA, have had to work very hard to find the right combination of cleanup scope with realistic goals, funding, timeliness, and historical sensitivity.

The BRMA would very much like to see the DOE's feet held to the fire, so that the work in Alternative #3 will come to pass in a realistically short time. We also encourage the DOE to go an inch farther and deal with the grave responsibility they're stuck with—how to make the world's first production-scale nuclear reactor available to the public? We will be working with and prodding the DOE to expand access to this historic building by scheduling more tours, allowing school-aged people and non-U.S. citizens on tours, and easing the badging requirements for visitors to B Reactor. Might the DOE actually be coaxed into etching in stone that they intend to see B Reactor made into a museum?



PO Box 1531  
Richland, WA 99352  
<http://www.b-reactor.org>  
[info@b-reactor.org](mailto:info@b-reactor.org)

Dedicated to the preservation  
of Hanford's historic B Reactor



Along with the need to oversee the essential cleanup work at B Reactor, we encourage the EPA and the Department of Ecology to consider the rich historical importance of B Reactor, and its importance to the local community, the state of Washington, the United States, and to people throughout the world. There is no other place on this planet that can lay claim to being humanity's first utilization of nuclear energy. When B Reactor was first started in September 1944, history took a new direction. We urge you to ensure that this historic structure is not just cleaned up, but suitably preserved and presented to the other inhabitants of our planet.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gene Weisskopf". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gene" being more prominent than the last name "Weisskopf".

Gene Weisskopf  
President, BRMA